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From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Tue 1/28/2014 9:58:15 PM
Subject: EOC Spot Report Update #20: Chemical Spill, Charleston, WV
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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV - Update #20

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 1500 January 28, 2014

Overview: On January 10, the President approved an Emergency Declaration for the State of West Virginia after a chemical, 4-methylcyclohexanemethanol, (MCHM) leaked at a Freedom Industries chemical plant and into the Elk River in Charleston, WV. The spill occurred near the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant which detected the chemical even after an increased carbon treatment effort was put in place. Freedom Industries is working to clean up the spill at the facility and in the river.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: West Virginia water authorities issued a "Do Not Use Water Notice" for 10 counties and the President's Emergency Declaration covers eight counties. West Virginia American Water Company (WVAWC) customers were told not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, washing, or bathing. Water could be used for toilets and fire emergencies. When the incident originally occurred, it contaminated drinking water for 300,000 people. The emergency declaration was closed on 1/20.

The facility is continuing to pump water upgradient of the secondary containment area. The majority of the site is frozen and most of the holes/sumps dug inside the tank containment are frozen and cannot be pumped.

The facility revised their estimate of the amount of material leaked to 10,000 gallons. The facility's contractor continues to pump water from the containment trench into an onsite tank for temporary storage. The facility is improving the containment trench by installing perforated pipe and a sump under the liner. The liner will be placed over the pipe and will be tied into the base of the slope.

Ice in the river is causing difficulty with maintaining the river boom in place. The facility contractor continues to break the ice and to properly position the river booms. The booms will be allowed to freeze in place. However, ice will continually need to be cleared from the outside of the boom to allow boat access.

The facility's remediation consultant, CEC, plans on collecting surface water and groundwater samples on January 29, 2014. EPA and WVDEP will collect split samples.

EPA CID, FBI and CSB were on site today. The investigative team will be making an entry into the tank that leaked.

EPA Action: EPA Region 3 continues to monitor and provide oversight of facility activities at the Freedom Industries tank farm site and the Poca staging facility. EPA continues to coordinate with WVDEP and WVAWC.

Media Interest: High

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401270125>

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

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